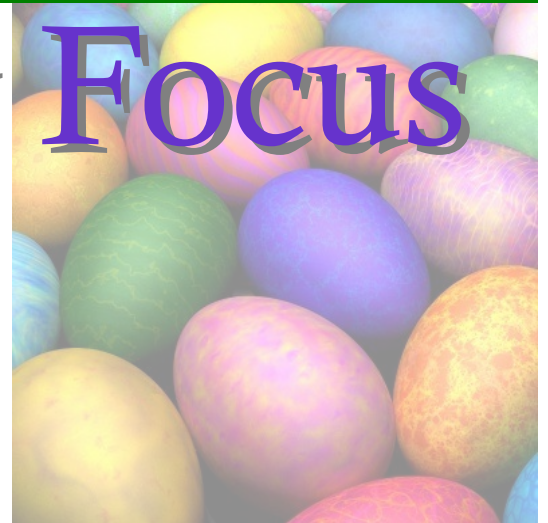


# S.D. Family Focus

An update for South Dakota  
Service Members &  
Families!



**MARCH 2013**

**1-800-658-3930**

## 842nd Wins Readiness Award

### **842<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Company Wins 2012 DoD Reserve Family Readiness Award**

On March 1, 2013, the 842<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Company will receive prestigious recognition at the *2012 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Awards* presentation at the Pentagon located in Washington D.C. for their exemplary care of military families while maintaining outstanding unit readiness. The presentation held in the Pentagon *Hall of Heroes* will be hosted by Mr. Richard O. Wightman, Jr., Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs).



The Reserve Family Readiness Award recognizes one National Guard and Reserve unit from each of the seven Reserve components and the winners are those units with the best programs to support their families. Representatives from each of the winning units will attend the ceremony and receive a commemorative plaque and framed certificate from Mr. Wightman. Each unit will also receive a certificate and cash award from the Military Officers Association of America. The cash award is to be used to further enhance the unit's family support programs.

The DoD Reserve Family Readiness Awards Program was established in 2000 to recognize the top unit Family Readiness program in each of the Reserve components. Family readiness programs are particularly important as the United States relies on significant numbers of reservists to serve in critical locations worldwide. Family readiness has proven to be a key component of mission readiness.

## Tax Time!

When W-2 Forms and other tax documents start arriving, many Americans begin to think about how to minimize the financial impact of taxes by taking all of the deductions and credits available. This month we have an article to help families with special needs understand certain credits and deductions that may apply to their situation. In this issue we share some ways that everyday technology is helping people with disabilities, and introduce you to an exceptional individual and athlete who refuses to allow his paraplegia to slow him down.



To view the interactive flip version of The Exceptional Advocate, click on the link below.

<http://apps.militaryonesource.mil/efmp/book/2013/February>

**FREE** tax filing and consultation flyer (See Pg. 6)

## Military Youth

**Happy St. Patrick's Day from the SDNG Child & Youth Program!**

*Join Us!!!*

### **Region 8 Youth Leadership Summit** (ages 14-17)

April 4-7 in Rapid City – Represent SD Guard youth and join military teens from 5 other states in leadership, connection, resilience, challenge courses, and team building! Contact us for an application: Taryn Broomfield, Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator, at 605 -737-6919 or [taryn.m.broomfield.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:taryn.m.broomfield.ctr@mail.mil)



### **Purple Up! for Military Kids Day** – April 12

April is Month of the Military Child, a time to thank and honor the military youth in our homes and communities for their service. South Dakota's Operation: Military Kids (OMK) Program is proud to announce that SD 4-H is partnering to sponsor the 2013 Purple Up! Campaign. We encourage everyone to **wear purple** on **April 12<sup>th</sup>** as a visible way to show support and thanks to all military children for their strength and courage. Purple t-shirts are also available to purchase for \$10. The order deadline is March 8<sup>th</sup>. Contact Taryn or Candice for further information or order online: <http://igrow.org/product/omk-purple-up-t-shirts>

### **2013 SD Military Youth Camp** – Save the Date – July 22-26

- Get Wild! Ages 9-11 & Junior Counselors ages 15-17 at Storm Mountain
- Explore! Ages 12-14 at Camp Rapid
- Stay tuned for further information

### **Join the Youth Council**

Guard Teens ages 14-17 → Become the VOICE of South Dakota National Guard Youth and join the Youth Council! For further information, contact Candice Tvinnereim, Child & Youth Program Coordinator, at 605-787-3312 or [candice.l.tvinneriem.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:candice.l.tvinneriem.ctr@mail.mil)

## Understanding Deployment

Sponsored by  
Operation: Military Kids

An opportunity for pastoral staff to

- Learn about the stages of deployment
- Develop a better understanding of how individual family members are affected
- Hear about one family's experience
- Network with other pastoral staff
- Become aware of available resources



Operation: Military Kids is a collaborative effort between military branches, the Coop. Extension Service and the community.

## March 9, 2013

At two locations

**SDSU West River Ag Center  
1905 Plaza Blvd. Rapid City**

**9-11 am**

**and**

**Regional Extension Center  
2001 E. 8th St. Sioux Falls**

**10-Noon**

RSVP by March 7 to:  
[kathryn.reeves@sdstate.edu](mailto:kathryn.reeves@sdstate.edu)  
605-394-2236

## Women Veteran's Retreat



VA Black Hills Health Care System will host a **free**, semi-annual Women Veterans' Retreat through the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Outpatient Treatment Program. The retreat will be held **April 19-21**, at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center, two miles east of Sturgis.

The retreat will focus on Veterans' treatment and addresses psychological, physical, social and spiritual issues related to PTSD. The retreats provide a unique opportunity for women to learn more about the effects of war, as well as other types of trauma. The primary emphasis is to learn how to cope with the devastating effects PTSD can have on Veterans and family members' lives. The retreat program also encourages participants to examine problem areas in their lives and help them make healthy changes and choices. There will be a particular emphasis on developing healthier coping strategies and increasing one's social support network.

The retreat is offered **free of charge**. All meals and lodging are provided at no cost to eligible participants through the generous donations of the Disabled American Veterans Charitable Trust, as well as other Veteran's service organizations and interested groups and individuals who want to support this beneficial program.

If you want more information please contact Jill Broecher at: (605) 720-7451 or email [Jill.Broecher@va.gov](mailto:Jill.Broecher@va.gov)

# Job Fair Guide

## Why go to a job fair?

Job fair helps you in your job search. They:

- Are convenient ways to learn about a variety of jobs.
- Allow you to see what employers are out there.
- Assist you in learning about qualities employers are looking for.
- Offer you the opportunity to disseminate multiple resumes to multiple employers in a short amount of time
- Give you face-to-face interaction with the people who will review your resume.

If you did well and impressed recruiters you may even get invited immediately for a second interview.

## Know what to expect

Companies attend job fairs for only one reason: **to hire qualified employees**. Many employers will have job applications ready to hand out. It's a win-win situation for everyone. Get there early. If you arrive late, do not expect to visit with all of the employers.

## Be prepared

Come ready to fill out job applications by bringing your references, phone numbers, addresses, and work history dates.

- Bring multiple resumes (more than ten), one for each employer you visit.
- Smile, make eye contact with, and greet the interviewer with a firm handshake.
- Always be aware of your body posture. Look confident and remember their name.
- Writing it down afterwards will help.
- Clothing is key.** Always dress in good taste. Dress neat, and clean in business attire. A suit is recommended.
- Prepare your elevator speech in case of an on-the-spot interview.
- Be clear, be concise, be calm, be honest, and most of all be yourself. Being nervous is normal, so do your best.

## Ask questions

Prepare questions, like:

- How would you describe a typical work day and my tasks included if I was in this position?
- What characteristics do you look for in a person in this position.
- What type of additional training does XYZ Company offer?
- What are XYZ Company's short/long term goals for this department?

## Prepare answers

Expect to be asked:

- What skills do you have related to this position?
- Tell me about yourself.
- How can you positively impact this position?
- Why are you interested in this position or XYZ Company?

## Upcoming Job Fairs

**Black Hills Regional Job Fair:** March 6 from 12PM-6PM at Rushmore Plaza Civic Center

**Brookings Radio Spring Job Fair:** March 13 from 12PM-5:30PM at Days Inn Convention Center

**Aberdeen Area Job Fair:** March 19 from 12:30PM-5Pm at Aberdeen Civic Arena

**Watertown Radio Spring Job Fair:** March 26 from 12PM-5:30PM at Watertown Event Center

*"If you have any questions please let me know. I want to emphasize that if any job seekers are seeking assistance beforehand or want help preparing for these job fairs, they should contact me."* - **Dan Popowski**

For more information contact Dan Popowski at: 605-357-2913 or email [daniel.popowski@iifdata.com](mailto:daniel.popowski@iifdata.com)

# State Awards

The Service Member and Family Support - Family Readiness and Youth Programs recognize the importance of volunteers to the success of our programs. A variety of awards are offered annually in order to recognize our truly outstanding volunteers and organizations that support Family Readiness and Youth operations within our units, state, and communities.

All nominations are submitted from the field and anyone can nominate for the awards. Please email [sd.sdarng.list.frsa@mail.mil](mailto:sd.sdarng.list.frsa@mail.mil) for more information.

## Award recipients for 2012 are as follows:

**Family Readiness Military Family of the Year** – Presented to any active or retired SDNG member and their family that show outstanding and exceptional service to the Family Readiness Program.

*Army: SSG Burton and Angela Glover, Battery A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 147<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery in Aberdeen, SD*

*Air: SMSgt Bruce and Pamela McDowell, 114<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls, SD*

**Family Readiness Volunteer of the Year** - Presented to Adult Statutory Volunteers that have shown outstanding and exceptional service to the Family Readiness Program.

*Army: Susan Robinson, 927<sup>th</sup> Survey and Design Team in Sioux Falls, SD*

*Air: Joyce Callies, 114<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls, SD*

**Family Readiness Military Member of the Year** - Presented to actively drilling military member that shows outstanding and exceptional service to the Family Readiness Program.

*Air: Colonel Steve Warren, 114<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls, SD*

**Family Readiness Gold Award** - Presented to a retired military member from any branch of service or non military person showing long-term, consistent, and dedicated support volunteering within their community.

*Pam Merrell, 842<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Company, Spearfish, SD*

**Family Readiness Extra Mile Award** – Presented to National Guard retiree who distinguishes themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the Family Readiness Program.

*Richard Stearns, 211<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, Madison, SD*

**Family Readiness Unit Award** – Presented to the Unit that shows outstanding and exceptional dedication to the development and progression of Family Readiness within their unit.

*842<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Company, Spearfish, SD*

**Family Readiness Community Purple Award** – Presented to a community group or organization that best exemplifies “the Purple concept” of the Joint Family Program by working with both Air and Army Guard.

*St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School, Rapid City, SD*

**Youth Volunteer Award** – Presented to Youth who exhibit exemplary commitment to and support of the National Guard Youth Program.

*Austin Chase, Volga, SD*

**Youth Development Volunteer Award** – Presented to any adult Youth Program volunteer, regardless of military affiliation who has made a significant impact in the development and support of the SDNG Youth Program mission.

*Dale Greenfield, Huron, SD*

# Military OneSource

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Provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to service members (active duty, Guard, and Reserve) and their family members.

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### Prepare NOW for 2013 SAT and ACT Exams

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Value of donated Programs: \$42,000,000+

PowerPrep Programs include 11 hours of video instruction, practice tests, sample questions and over 3000 files of supplemental test prep material. Students select the training they need and study at their own pace.

To Order YOUR FREE \$200 PowerPrep Programs Online: [www.eKnowledge.com/SDNG](http://www.eKnowledge.com/SDNG)

Order by phone: 951-256-4076

\*The SAT or ACT PowerPrep™ Programs retail for \$200.00, families pay a nominal charge for materials, support and shipping of \$17.55

The donation project is in alliance with the Department of Defense and Supported by professional athletes from the NFL, MLB and 100+ organizations, groups and foundations.

60,000+ thank you and testimonials

- Great program! My son used the DVD and scored high enough on his SAT to get a 4 yr academic scholarship to the University of Maryland. My daughter is next and we hope for the same outcome. Thank you so much for your support! H. Cole
- My daughter used her ACT/SAT prep DVD to prepare 3 years ago - she is now a sophomore at the University of AL on a full ride academic scholarship! Her scholarship was predicated on her high ACT score. I just ordered the latest version for my son... (Let's hope lightning strikes twice!) Thanks for a wonderful resource!!! A. Raebel

| 2013 SAT and ACT TEST DATES |            |          |        |              |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------|--------|--------------|
| SAT                         | January 26 | March 9  | May 4  | June 1       |
| ACT                         | February 9 | April 13 | June 8 | September 21 |

For further information, please contact Lori Caputo, 951-256-4076, [LoriCaputo@eKnowledge.com](mailto:LoriCaputo@eKnowledge.com)